



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPERATION ICY HOT
**FOUR MORE DEFENDANTS SENTENCED
FOR METH CONSPIRACY**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that four more defendants have been sentenced in federal court for their roles in a large-scale conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. These sentencing, Graves said, are the result of Operation Icy Hot, which has resulted in 37 convictions.

Roberto Torrez-Ramirez, 36, a Mexican national living in Kansas City, **Michael D. Ryan**, 32, of Kansas City, and **Ryan Poston**, 26, of Grandview, were sentenced in separate appearances today before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan. **Torrez-Ramirez** was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison without parole; **Ryan** was sentenced to nine years in federal prison without parole; **Poston** was sentenced to seven years and six months in federal prison without parole.

Enrique Cazarez, Jr., 26, a Mexican national living in Kansas City, was sentenced on Thursday to 19 years and seven months in federal prison without parole.

These four defendants are among 37 co-defendants who have pleaded guilty to charges contained in an Aug. 12, 2004, federal indictment that charged a conspiracy to distribute at least 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine between Jan. 1, 2002, and July 12, 2004. Among those co-defendants are 10 who are Mexican nationals living in Kansas City and Independence, 12 Kansas City residents, eight Independence residents, four Grandview, Mo., residents, one Raytown, Mo., resident, one Warrensburg, Mo., resident and one El Paso, Texas, resident.

* **Herbert L. Conroy, Jr.**, 30, of Independence, was sentenced on Feb. 22, 2006, to 20 years in federal prison without parole.

* **Christopher M. Graham**, 29, of Kansas City, was sentenced on Feb. 1, 2006, to 17

years and six months in federal prison without parole, which the court ordered to run concurrently with the remainder of the term being served for an unrelated federal offense.

* **Ronald P. Murray**, 48, of Kansas City, was sentenced on Jan. 4, 2006, to five years in federal prison without parole.

* **Michael B. Pedrino**, 28, of Independence, was sentenced on Jan. 6, 2006, to seven years in federal prison without parole.

* **Lucas D. Wilson**, 24, of Independence, was sentenced on Jan. 6, 2006, to seven years and one month in federal prison without parole.

* **Jose D. Andujo-Hernandez**, 34, a Mexican national living in Kansas City, was sentenced on Aug. 22, 2005, to four years and three months in federal prison without parole.

* **James M. Winkler**, 31, of Independence, was sentenced on Aug. 16, 2005, to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

Other Mexican nationals who pleaded guilty and await sentencing include **Alberto Balderarama-Sanchez**, 34, **Manuel S. Funes-Vargas**, 39, **Edgar Sanchez**, age unknown, **Michael Wayne Mosher**, 25, **Guillermo Rivera-Corral**, 58, and **Armando Hernandez**, 38, who all are living in Kansas City, and **Esmeralda I. Mendoza-Mendoza**, 31, who resides in Independence.

Other Kansas City residents who pleaded guilty and await sentencing include **Ramon Leopoldo Morales**, 46, **Rebecca Alexander**, 36, **Lewis G. Kilgore, Jr.**, 29, **Samuel R. Contraras**, 26, **David J. Perez**, 35, **Peyton S. Leach**, 28, **Thomas E. Wasmere, IV**, 36, **John B. Wolf**, 35, and **Jesus M. Hernandez-Delgado**, 27.

Other Independence residents who pleaded guilty and await sentencing include **Cledis R. Roberts, Jr.**, 28, **Kelly E. Bunce**, 26, **Kimberly D. Vickers**, 30, and **Leonira A. Rodriguez**, 30.

The remaining convicted co-defendants include **Eric J. Banks**, 34, **Bradley E. Jenkins**, 21, and **Cleothpus J. Harris**, 40, all of Grandview, **Rebecca L. Martin**, 24, of Raytown, **Christopher R. Mays**, 33, of Warrensburg, and **Gloria Garcia**, 33, of El Paso.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Kansas City Metropolitan Drug Task Force, the Jackson County, Mo., Drug Task Force, the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html